

Obstruction emerges as key focus in Trump documents probe

By ERIC TUCKER, JILL COLVIN and MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

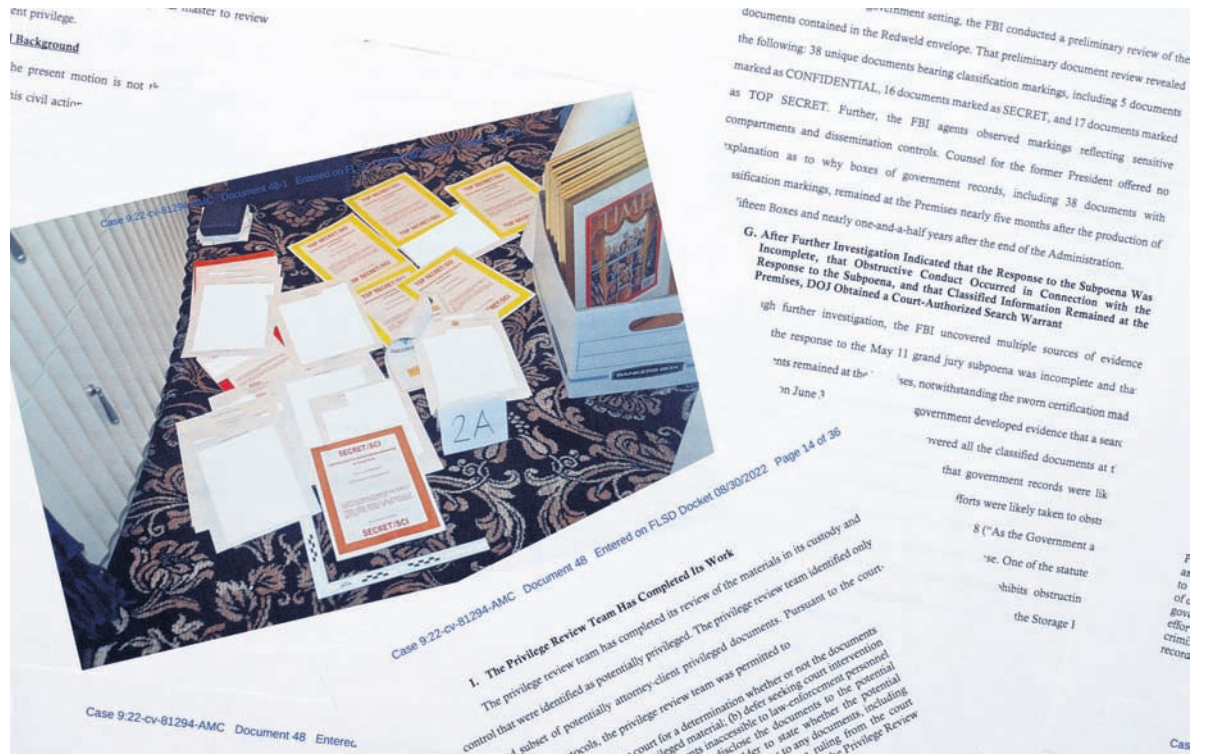
The Justice Department says classified documents were "likely concealed and removed" from a storage room at former President Donald Trump's Florida estate as part of an effort to obstruct the federal investigation into the discovery of the government records.

The FBI also seized boxes and containers holding more than 100 classified records during its Aug. 8 search of Mar-a-Lago and found classified documents stashed in Trump's office, according to a filing late Tuesday that lays out the

most detailed chronology to date of months of strained interactions between Justice Department officials and Trump representatives over the discovery of government secrets.

The filing offers yet another indication of the sheer volume of classified records retrieved from Mar-a-Lago, in Palm Beach, Florida. It shows how investigators conducting a criminal probe have focused not just on why the records were improperly stored there but also on the question of whether the Trump team intentionally misled them about the continued, and unlawful, presence of the top secret documents.

Continued on next page



Pages from a Department of Justice court filing on Aug. 30, 2022, in response to a request from the legal team of former President Donald Trump for a special master to review the documents seized during the Aug. 8 search of Mar-a-Lago, are photographed early Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022.

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The timeline laid out by the Justice Department made clear that the extraordinary search of Mar-a-Lago came only after other efforts to retrieve the records had failed and that it resulted from law enforcement suspicion that additional documents remained inside the property despite assurances by Trump representatives that a "diligent search" had accounted for all of the material.

It also included a picture of some of the seized documents with colored cover sheets indicating their classified status, perhaps as a way to rebut suggestions that whoever packed them at Mar-a-Lago could have easily failed to appreciate their sensitive nature.

The photo shows the cover pages of a smattering of paperclip-bound classified documents — some marked as "TOP SECRET//SCI" with bright yellow borders and one marked as "SECRET//SCI" with a rust-colored border — along with whited-out pages, splayed out on a carpet at Mar-a-Lago. Beside them sits a cardboard box filled with gold-framed pictures, including a Time magazine cover.

Though it contains significant new details on the investigation, the Justice Department filing does not resolve a core question that has driven public fascination with the investigation — why Trump held onto the documents after he left the White House and why he and his team resisted repeated efforts to give them back. In fact, it suggests officials may not have received an answer. During a June 3 visit to Mar-a-Lago by FBI and Justice Department officials, the document states, "Counsel for the former President offered no explanation as to why boxes of government



This image contained in a court filing by the Department of Justice on Aug. 30, 2022, and redacted by in part by the FBI, shows a photo of documents seized during the Aug. 8 search by the FBI of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

records, including 38 documents with classification markings, remained at the Premises nearly five months after the production of the Fifteen Boxes and nearly one-and-a-half years after the end of the Administration." That visit, which came weeks after the Justice Department issued a subpoena for the records, receives substantial attention in the document and appears to be a key investigative focus.

Though Trump insisted again Wednesday that he had declassified the documents at Mar-a-Lago, his lawyers did not suggest that during the visit and instead "handled them in a manner that suggested counsel believed that the documents were classified," the Justice Department said.

FBI agents who went there to receive additional ma-

terials were given "a single Redweld envelope, double-wrapped in tape, containing the documents," the filing states.

That envelope, according to the FBI, contained 38 unique documents with classification markings, including 16 documents marked secret and 17 marked top secret.

The investigators were permitted to visit the storage room but were not allowed to open or look inside any of the boxes, "giving no opportunity for the government to confirm that no documents with classification markings remained," the Justice Department says.

During that visit, the document says, Trump's lawyers told investigators that all the records that had come from the White House were stored in one location — a

Mar-a-Lago storage room — and that "there were no other records stored in any private office space or other location at the Premises and that all available boxes were searched."

After that, though, the department, which had subpoenaed video footage for the property, "developed evidence that government records were likely concealed and removed from the Storage Room and that efforts were likely taken to obstruct the government's investigation." The filing does not identify the individuals who may have relocated the boxes. In their August search, agents found classified documents both in the storage room as well as in the former president's office — including three classified documents found not in boxes, but in office desks.

"That the FBI, in a matter of hours, recovered twice as many documents with classification markings as the 'diligent search' that the former President's counsel and other representatives had weeks to perform calls into serious question the representations made in the June 3 certification and casts doubt on the extent of cooperation in this matter," the document states.

It says, "In some instances, even the FBI counterintelligence personnel and DOJ attorneys conducting the review required additional clearances before they were permitted to review certain documents."

The investigation began from a referral from the National Archives and Records Administration, which recovered 15 boxes from Mar-a-Lago in January that were found to contain 184 documents with classified markings, including top secret information.

The purpose of the Tuesday night filing was to oppose a request from the Trump legal team for a special master to review the documents seized during this month's search and to return to him certain seized property. U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon is set to hear arguments on the matter on Thursday.

Cannon on Saturday said it was her "preliminary intent" to appoint such a person but also gave the Justice Department an opportunity to respond.

On Monday, the department said it had already completed its review of potentially privileged documents and identified a "limited set of materials that potentially contain attorney-client privileged information." It said Tuesday that a special master was therefore "unnecessary" and that the presidential records that were taken from the home do not belong to Trump. □

Associated Press

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U.S. clears updated COVID boosters targeting newest variants

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. on Wednesday authorized its first update to COVID-19 vaccines, booster doses that target today's most common omicron strain. Shots could begin within days.

The move by the Food and Drug Administration tweaks the recipe of shots made by Pfizer and rival Moderna that already have saved millions of lives. The hope is that the modified boosters will blunt yet another winter surge — and help tamp down the BA.5 omicron relative that continues to spread widely.

"These updated boosters present us with an opportunity to get ahead" of the next COVID-19 wave, said FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf.

Until now, COVID-19 vaccines have targeted the original coronavirus strain, even as wildly different mutants emerged. The new U.S. boosters are combination, or "bivalent," shots. They contain half that original vaccine recipe and half protection against the newest omicron versions, BA.4 and BA.5, that are considered the most contagious yet.

The combination aims to increase cross-protection against multiple variants.

"It really provides the broadest opportunity for protection," Pfizer vaccine chief Annaliesa Anderson told The Associated Press.

The updated boosters are only for people who have already had their primary vaccinations, us-



This August 2022 photo provided by Pfizer shows vials of the company's updated COVID-19 vaccine during production in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Associated Press

ing the original vaccines. Doses made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech are for anyone 12 and older while Moderna's updated shots are for adults — if it has been at least two months since their last primary vaccination or their latest booster. They're not to be used for initial vaccinations. There's one more step before a fall booster campaign begins: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must recommend who should get the additional shot. An influential CDC advisory panel will debate the evidence Thursday — including whether people at high risk from COVID-19 should go first.

The U.S. has purchased more than 170 million doses from the two companies. Pfizer said it could ship up

to 15 million of those doses by the end of next week. Moderna didn't immediately say how many doses are ready to ship but that some will be available "in the coming days."

The big question is whether people weary of vaccinations will roll up their sleeves again.

Just half of vaccinated Americans got the first recommended booster dose, and only a third of those 50 and older who were urged to get a second booster did so.

It's time for U.S. authorities to better explain that the public should expect an updated COVID-19 vaccination every so often, just like getting a fall flu shot or a tetanus booster after stepping on a rusty nail, said University of Pennsyl-

vania immunologist E. John Wherry.

"We need to rebrand it in a societally normal-looking way," rather than a panicked response to new mutants, Wherry said. "Give a clear, forward-looking set of expectations."

Here's the rub: The original vaccines still offer strong protection against severe disease and death from COVID-19 for generally healthy people, especially if they got that important first booster dose. It's not clear just how much more benefit an updated booster will bring — beyond a temporary jump in antibodies capable of fending off an omicron infection.

One reason: The FDA cleared the modifications ahead of studies in people, a step toward eventually

handling COVID-19 vaccine updates more like yearly changes to flu shots. FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks stressed the agency considered "the totality" of evidence. Pfizer and Moderna have previously brewed vaccine doses updated to match earlier mutants — including the omicron strain named BA.1 that struck last winter — and tested them in people. Those earlier recipe changes were safe, and the BA.1 version substantially boosted virus-fighting antibodies — more than another dose of the original vaccine — although fewer that recognized today's genetically distinct BA.4 and BA.5 strains.

But instead of using those BA.1 shots, FDA ordered the companies to brew even more up-to-date doses that target those newest omicron mutants, sparking a race to roll them out. Rather than waiting a few more months for additional human studies of that very similar recipe tweak, Marks said animal tests showed the latest update spurs "a very good immune response."

"One needs to refresh the immune system with what is actually circulating," Marks said. That's why FDA also is no longer authorizing boosters made with the original recipe for those 12 and older.

The hope, Marks said, is that a vaccine matched to currently spreading variants might do a better job fighting infection, not just serious illness, at least for a while. □

Survey finds young people follow news, but without much joy

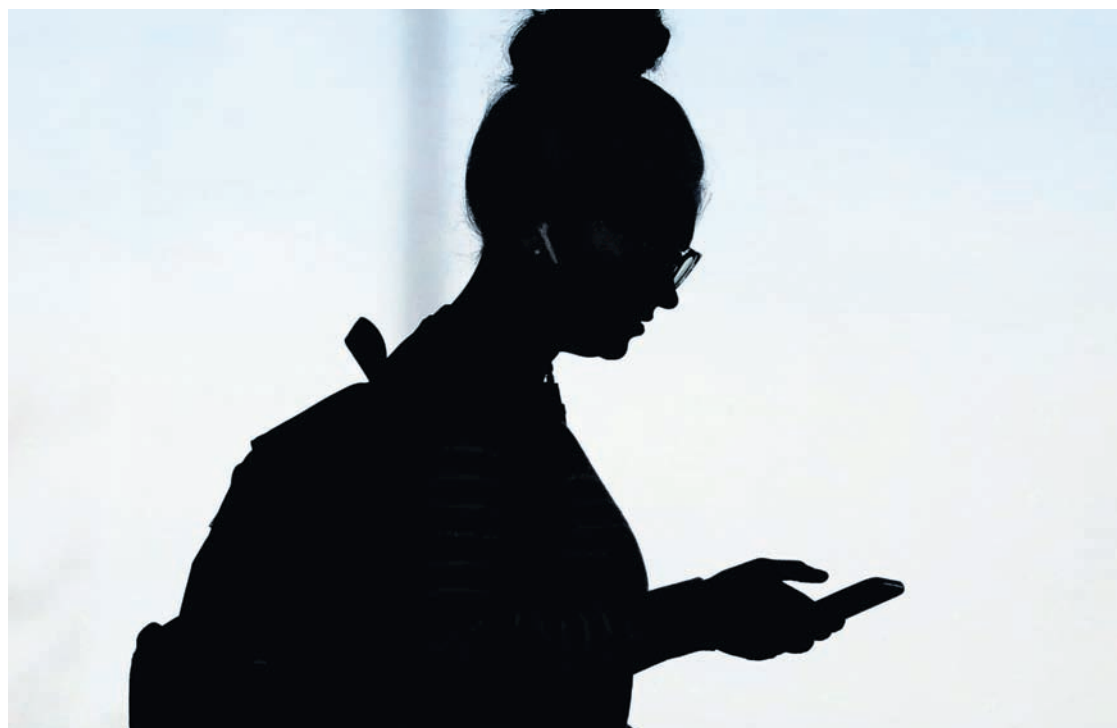
By **DAVID BAUDER**

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Young people are following the news but aren't too happy with what they're seeing. Broadly speaking, that's the conclusion of a study released Wednesday showing 79% of young Americans say they get news daily. The survey of young people ages 16 to 40 — the older of which are known as millennials and the younger Generation Z — was conducted by Media Insight Project, a collaboration between The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the American Press Institute.

The report pokes holes in the idea that young people aren't interested in news, a perception largely driven by statistics showing older audiences for television news and newspapers. "They are more engaged in more ways than people give them credit for," said Michael Bolden, CEO and executive director of the American Press Institute.

An estimated 71% of this age group gets news daily from social media. The social media diet is becoming more varied; Facebook doesn't dominate the way it used to. About a third or



A woman checks her phone in Orem, Utah, on Nov. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

more get news each day from YouTube and Instagram, and about a quarter or more from TikTok, Snapchat and Twitter. Now, 40% say they get news from Facebook daily, compared with 57% of millennials who said that in a 2015 Media Insight Project survey.

Yet 45% also said they get news each day from traditional sources, like television or radio stations, newspapers and news websites. The poll found that about a quarter of young people say they regularly pay for at

least one news product, like print or digital magazines or newspapers, and a similar percentage have donated to at least one nonprofit news organization.

Only 32% say they enjoy following the news. That's a marked decrease from seven years ago, when 53% of millennials said that. Fewer young people now say they enjoy talking with family and friends about the news.

Other findings, such as people who say they feel worse the longer they spend on-

line or who set time limits on their consumption, point to a weariness with the news, said Tom Rosenstiel, a University of Maryland journalism professor.

"I wasn't surprised by that," Bolden said. "It has been a challenging news cycle, especially the last three years."

About 9 in 10 young people say misinformation about issues and events is a problem, including about 6 in 10 who say it's a major problem. Most say they've been exposed to misinformation

themselves.

Asked who they consider most responsible for its spread, young people pointed to social media companies and users, politicians and the media in equal measure.

That may surprise people in the media who believe they are fighting misinformation, and are not part of the problem, Bolden said. A significant number of people disagree.

"Whether that's accurate or not, the people in this business have to deal with that perception," he said.

He suggested that it's important for news organizations to better explain what it is that they do and how coverage decisions are made, along with taking a step back to make clear how government functions, as well as holding leaders to account.

The percentage of people who say "news stories that seem to mostly create conflict rather than help address it" and "media outlets that pass on conspiracy theories and unsubstantiated rumors" are a major problem exceeded the number of people concerned about journalists putting too much opinion in their stories, the survey found. □

Deadly bird flu returns to Midwest earlier than expected



In this Nov. 2, 2005 file photo, turkeys are seen at a turkey farm near Sauk Centre, Minn.

Associated Press

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI**

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Bird flu has returned to the Midwest earlier than authori-

ties expected after a lull of several months, with the highly pathogenic disease being detected in a commercial turkey flock in west-

ern Minnesota, officials said Wednesday.

The disease was detected after a farm in Meeker County reported an increase in mortality last weekend, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health said. Tests confirmed the disease Tuesday evening. The flock was euthanized to stop the spread.

It was the first detection of avian influenza in Minnesota since May 31, when a backyard flock was struck in Becker County, and the first in the Midwest since a backyard flock in Indiana on June 9. However, there have been several detections in western states in July and August, including California, Washington, Oregon, Utah, plus a few in

some eastern states.

"While the timing of this detection is a bit sooner than we anticipated, we have been preparing for a resurgence of the avian influenza we dealt with this spring," said Dr. Shauna Voss, the board's senior veterinarian. "HPAI is here and biosecurity is the first line of defense to protect your birds."

Across the country, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 414 flocks in 39 states have been affected since February, costing producers over 40 million birds, mostly commercial turkeys and chickens. The disease has struck 81 Minnesota flocks this year, requiring the killing of nearly 2.7 million birds.

Minnesota produces more

turkeys annually than any other state.

This year's outbreak contributed to a spike in egg and meat prices, and killed an alarming number of bald eagles and other wild birds. It also affected some zoos. It appeared to be waning in June, but officials warned then that another surge could take hold this fall.

The disease is typically carried by migrating birds. It only occasionally affects humans, such as farm workers, and the USDA keeps poultry from infected flocks out of the food supply. A widespread outbreak in 2015 killed 50 million birds across 15 states and cost the federal government nearly \$1 billion. □

EU to tighten travel rules for Russians, but no visa ban

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — European Union countries agreed Wednesday to make it harder for Russian citizens to enter the 27-nation bloc, but they failed to find a consensus on imposing an outright tourist ban in response to Russia's war on Ukraine.

At talks in the Czech Republic, EU foreign ministers were desperate to put on a show of unity and further punish President Vladimir Putin for launching the war over six months ago. Still, they couldn't bridge differences over whether Russian citizens, some of them possibly opposed to the invasion, should also pay a price.

The plan now is to make it more time-consuming and costly for Russian citizens to obtain short-term visas to enter Europe's passport-free travel zone a 26-country area made up of most of the EU members plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland known as the Schengen area.

The move will be done by freezing a 2007 agreement to ease travel between Russia and Europe. The EU already tightened visa restrictions on Russian officials and businesspeople under the accord in May.

Speaking after chairing the meeting in the Czech capital Prague, EU foreign policy



Sweden's Foreign Minister Ann Linde, center, speaks with European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, second left, during a group photo of EU foreign ministers at the Prague Congress Center in Prague, Czech Republic, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022. Others from left, Romania's Foreign Minister Bogdan Aurescu, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias, Finland's Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto and Italy's Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio.

chief Josep Borrell said that an increasing number of Russians have been arriving in Europe since mid-July, some "for leisure and shopping as if no war is raging in Ukraine."

This, he said, "has become a security risk" for European countries bordering Russia. Borrell said he believed the additional delays will result in fewer visas being issued. Students, journalists and those who fear for their safety in Russia would still be able to acquire visas.

The move would have no immediate impact on the estimated 12 million visas already issued to Russian citizens, but EU officials will look into what could be done to freeze them.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba described the move as "a half measure." He said that visas should only be issued to Russians on humanitarian grounds or to help those who clearly oppose Putin's war. "The age of peace in Europe is over, and so is

the age of half measures. Half measures is exactly what led to the large-scale invasion," he said after the meeting. "If I have to choose between half measure and no measure, I will prefer a no measure and continue a discussion until a strong solution is found." Calls have mounted from Poland and the Baltic countries Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania but also Denmark for a broader ban on Russian tourists. The foreign ministers of Estonia

and Latvia said that they may push ahead with further visa restrictions, citing national security concerns. "We need to immediately ramp up the price to Putin's regime," Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu told reporters. "The loss of time is paid by the blood of Ukrainians."

Uniform rules are supposed to apply across the 26 countries that make up Europe's passport free travel area, but Reinsalu said that "it's our national competence, under the principle of national security, to decide the issues of entry to our soil."

Over the years, several countries have reintroduced border controls for security reasons in the Schengen area, in which Europeans and visitors can travel freely without identification checks.

The foreign minister of Finland, which shares the EU's longest border with Russia, underlined that his country would, as of Thursday, slash the number of visas being delivered to Russian citizens to 10% of normal.

They'll only be able to apply for the travel pass in four Russian cities.

"It's important that we show that at the same time when Ukrainians are suffering, normal tourism shouldn't continue business as usual," Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto said. □

European charity seeks safe port for 460 rescued migrants

MILAN (AP) — The SOS Mediterranean charity is urgently seeking a port to safely unload 460 people rescued from the sea in 10 different operations last week who are now packed onto its Ocean Viking rescue ship. A nurse on board, identified only as Rebecca, said the four-person medical team is overwhelmed with serious issues, including skin infections and chronic diseases. Six people have been evacuated by the Italian Coast Guard, including two pregnant women in their ninth month along with a 3-week-old infant girl.

"There is an overwhelming number of medical cases, including exhaustion, dehydration, generalized body pain, untreated infections," the charity said Wednesday.

The European charity has requested ports of safety in Malta and Italy, but still has not received a response. The migrants were rescued from Thursday to Saturday last week. Laurence Bondard, an SOS Mediterranean spokesperson, stressed that the ship can only be "a temporary shelter. It is extremely difficult for the survivors to stay on deck, under stifling heat."

"All of these survivors need to be disembarked so they can have further health care away from the heat and sun, which is compromising their health even further," the nurse identified as Rebecca said in a video statement.

Those rescued are mostly from Bangladesh and Egypt, and include 20 women and 80 minors, most of whom are unaccompanied, the charity said. All but one of their smugglers' boats departed from Libya, and survivors said they had spent up to three days at sea before being rescued, Bondard said. □



Migrants from Bangladesh sleep aboard the Ocean Viking, a search and rescue ship run by NGOs SOS Mediterranean and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), Sunday, Aug 28, 2022 while waiting for three days for the Italian government to allocate a port to disembark.

Associated Press

UN expert: U.S. progress on LGBT rights but equality lacking

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Enormous progress has been achieved in the last 50 years for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the United States but unfortunately “equality is not yet within reach and in many cases not within sight” for LGBT communities, the independent U.N. expert on sexual orientation and gender identity said Tuesday.

Victor Madrigal-Borloz told a U.N. press conference after a 10-day visit to the United States that he applauds President Joe Biden for “very powerful” executive actions during his first days in office seeking to eradicate discrimination and violence against the LGBT community. But he said he is “extremely concerned” about a concerted series of actions at the state and local level based “on prejudice and stigma, to attack and to rollback the rights of LGBT persons.”

Madrigal-Borloz said that in access to health, employment, education and housing, the LGBT community suffers.

Among young adults aged 18 to 25, for example, LGBT people have a 2.2 times greater risk of homelessness, 23% of LGBT adults of color have no health



Flags fly outside the United Nations headquarters during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

coverage, and in a recent study 43% of lesbian, gay and bisexual participants reported having suffered at least one act of discrimination or harassment, he said. Madrigal-Borloz, a Costa Rican lawyer and human rights advocate, also expressed serious concern at the disproportionate impact of violence against the LGBT community.

He cited the National Crime Victimization Survey that found that 20.3% of hate crimes were related to sexual orientation or gender identity bias, signifi-

cantly disproportionate to the LGBT population in the U.S., which he said is usually estimated at between 5% and 8%. He also cited a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study that found that bisexual women encountered intimate partner violence at higher rates than other populations, with 46% reporting having been raped and 74.9% reporting being victims of sexual violence other than rape, which he called “extremely worrying.”

Madrigal-Borloz, who was appointed by the Geneva-

based U.N. Human Rights Council, wrapped up visits to Washington, Birmingham, Alabama, Miami and San Diego at the invitation of the U.S. government. He said he met with over 70 federal, state and local representatives, more than 100 civil society representatives, and people with “lived experience” in the LGBT community.

He stressed that his comments Tuesday reflected his preliminary observations, and his final report with recommendations will be presented to the Human Rights

Council in June 2023.

“The conclusion of my visit in this preliminary moment is that there are significant efforts being deployed by the current administration to dismantle systems of social exclusion,” Madrigal-Borloz said. But there is also “a significant risk that LGBT persons will be caught in what I have described as a riptide created by all of these actions at local level.” He said NGOs and human rights defenders have found at least 280 current legislative attempts at the local level that would lead to a regression of LGBT rights, “and which also create a terribly polarizing narrative that exacerbates already high and worrisome risks of violence and discrimination.”

As examples, Madrigal-Borloz cited legislation in Alabama making it a felony to provide gender-affirming medical treatment to transgender youth and legislation in Florida nicknamed “don’t say gay” by opponents that bans teachers from talking about sexual orientation or gender identity through the third grade. He also cited limits on comprehensive sexual and gender education, and on participation in sports for transgender people. □

Political crisis continues in Baghdad after bloody clashes

By **SAMYA KULLAB**
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi paramilitary forces killed in heavy clashes with the supporters of a powerful Shiite

cleric were laid to rest on Wednesday as Iraq’s parliament speaker announced three days of mourning.

Normal life crept back in Baghdad after a bloody

24 hours when the supporters of populist Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr clashed with Iraqi security forces inside the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq’s government.

At least 30 people, both al-Sadr’s loyalists and Iraqi security forces, were killed, and over 400 people were wounded after trading fire for hours this week. Al-Sadr later called on his supporters to withdraw on Tuesday, spurring a de-escalation of hostilities.

Still, the threat of more clashes looms as the political rivalry between al-Sadr and his Iran-backed rivals in the Coordination Framework have not been settled. Tensions between the two camps are still pal-

pable and a way out of Iraq’s 10-month political vacuum does not appear within reach.

Both camps disagree over the appropriate mechanism to dissolve parliament and hold early elections, key demands of al-Sadr. His party won the 2021 federal election but was not able to reach the legislative quorum to vote in a government that excluded his Iran-friendly rivals.

Al-Sadr’s representative, who goes by the Twitter moniker Mohammed Saleh al-Iraqi, called on Iran to “rein in her camel” in Iraq a reference to the Framework or face the consequences. The strong language was unusual from al-Sadr’s camp, indicating

tensions are still simmering. The statement came in response to an earlier plea from the Framework calling on the parliament to convene, a move al-Sadr’s supporters prevented by storming the legislative assembly in July.

A funeral procession for four members of the Popular Mobilization Forces, a state-sanctioned umbrella of paramilitaries among which Iran-backed Shiite militias are the most powerful, was held in Baghdad. Key leaders from the Framework attended.

Iraq’s Parliament Speaker Mohammed Halbousi declared three days of mourning for those killed in the clashes, according to a statement from his office. □



Influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, makes a speech calling on his supporters to withdraw from the capital’s government quarter, from his house in Najaf, Iraq, Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

Venezuelan migration picks up, reaches about 6.8M

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

LOS PATIOS, Colombia (AP)

— Arbelys Briceño fixed her eyes on the chicken soup in the plastic container set before her, the first warm meal she'd had in days. She began eating slowly, almost hesitantly, but then picked up the pace — and snagged another serving when soup kitchen workers offered seconds.

It was her eighth day on a journey from her Venezuelan hometown to Peru, a country the 14-year-old couldn't place on a map but that her older brother had set as their destination. Mosquitoes had marked her legs. The sun had baked her face.

"It is as if it were a vacation but with lots of walking," Arbelys said with an outlook far more upbeat than that of most Venezuelan migrants trying to escape poverty in their once-prosperous country.

About 6.8 million Venezuelans have left their homeland since an economic crisis took hold in earnest in 2014 for the country of some 28 million people. Most have gone to nearby nations in Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 2.4 million are in Colombia, where Arbelys and her brother had paused on their trek.

That huge migration slowed as the pandemic cut economic opportunities and complicated travel across the region and as Venezuela's socialist government adopted reforms that slowed the country's economic free-fall and gave some appearance of revival.

About 150,000 Venezuelans returned to their homeland at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, according to United Nations' estimates, and some host countries reported a decline in the overall count of Venezuelan immigrants for the first time in years.

But the outward march is on the rise again.

At least 753,000 Venezuelans have left their country for another in Latin America or the Caribbean since



Migrants from Venezuela cross into Chile from the Bolivian border near Colchane, Chile, Dec. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

November, according to data from receiving countries, even as the government of President Nicolas Maduro continues to tout economic growth. Colombia, which had not reported updated figures since November, posted a jump of roughly 635,000 between that month and August.

By the time Arbelys, her sister and their brother reached Colombia, they had walked about 370 miles (600 kilometers). She had been unable to sleep one night — they had stayed on a sidewalk and she was startled by noises. She slipped and fell twice as they walked along a muddy back road to cross the border.

Her brother, on the journey for a second time, knew better than to allow the harsh sun to crisp his skin and slathered his face with sunscreen, which had formed streaks on his forehead.

Outside the soup kitchen in Los Patios, about 4.5 miles (7.5 kilometers) inside Colombia, migrants quickly cram around an outdoor table once the chain link fence door opens.

Some learned from friends or other migrants about the operation, whose cooks prepare upward of 40 gallons of soup for each meal

at two sites.

Jhon Alvarez, coordinator of the Fundación Nueva Ilusión — roughly New Hope Foundation in English — said he is increasingly seeing familiar faces at the soup kitchen.

"People are returning from the other countries — Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia — again to Venezuela, but after 15 days or a month they can't stand it, and they come back," Alvarez said. He said they tell him, "Look, I had to come back because the situation is still the same (or) it's worse. They raised the minimum wage, yes they did, but there's no work."

Nowadays, 48% of migrants surveyed by a network of assistance agencies cited lack of employment and low salaries as their main reason to leave Venezuela, while 40% mentioned difficulties obtaining food and basic services, according to the Venezuelan office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Maduro has taken steps to halt the country's economic decline, chief among them ending strict foreign currency controls, leading to a de facto switch from the Venezuelan bolivar to the U.S. dollar. That broke a years-long cycle of hyperinflation and helped ease

chronic shortages.

Restaurants, imported goods stores, exercise studios and other businesses have opened in the capital, Caracas. Maduro recently said the country's economy grew 17.4% during the first three months of 2022.

But Venezuela still has one of the world's highest inflation rates and about three quarters of the population lives on less than \$1.90 a day, an international standard for extreme poverty. Many lack access to clean, running water and electricity.

"Hope is the last thing to be lost, but at the moment, there is none," Frank Fernandez said as he tried to contact his family from the soup kitchen to let them know he had reached Colombia with his brother. They were headed to Chile, where Fernandez had worked for four years before testing his luck again in Venezuela.

The 19-year-old used to earn about \$43 a day working construction in Chile. At home, he could only find work cleaning windshields at a gas station. He and his brother walked up to 25 miles (40 kilometers) a day until they entered Colombia along one of the hundreds of dirt roads across the border.

Data compiled by the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants, which involves about 200 humanitarian organizations, show governments have recorded the arrival of 753,000 Venezuelan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers since November in 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The platform's data also show the overall population of such Venezuelans in those countries had declined slightly for a time last year, from 4,620,185 in January to 4,598,355 in July. The platform's figures don't include all migrants as some countries don't count those who are illegally present and they don't include figures for other countries, such as the United States.

Pandemic lockdowns and border closures also have pushed migrants to riskier paths. Mexico recently imposed a visa requirement for Venezuelans, so instead of flying to a country bordering the U.S., Venezuelan migrants now often trek northward across Central America after crossing the Darien Gap, a roadless jungle straddling the Colombia-Panama border where thieves, swollen rivers, rough terrain and wild animals are common.

Panama's government said 45,000 Venezuelans had entered its territory that way so far this year, up from only 3,000 last year.

Arbelys, the 13th of 14 siblings, said she did not know if she would get to enroll at school once she gets to Peru. She was not even sure where in Peru she would live.

An aid worker at a shelter near the border had warned her of the dangers she could face during the rest of the journey.

"My brothers tell me that nothing is going to happen to me," said Arbelys, whose parents stayed behind. "Along the journey, I feel scared sometimes because (the aid worker) also told me about human trafficking and how they try to trick you. I'm very trusting, so that scares me a little." □

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AAA's Wings of Hope presents: SDG 6K Fun Walk & Run 2022

ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V.'s (AAA) "Wings of Hope" (WoH) is organizing a 6K Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Awareness Fun Walk & Run on Saturday September 3, 2022.

As part of WoH's SDG Environment/Airport Community Goal, WoH is organizing a SDG Fun Walk & Run in order to raise funds for two foundations and create awareness on the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals set forth by United Nations. The two foundations that were chosen by AAA employees via a poll are Micky's Foundation and Stichting Casa Cuna Progreso.

Micky's Foundation provides children with physical and/or mental limitations with free, specialized, and intensive therapy session in the homes of families. Micky's Foundation organizes 3-months projects back-to-back four times a year, so continuity of therapy is also guaranteed. Each therapy is always given with the assistance of at least one parent, so they

can learn to give therapy exercises to their child at home.

Stichting Casa Cuna Progreso is a children's home

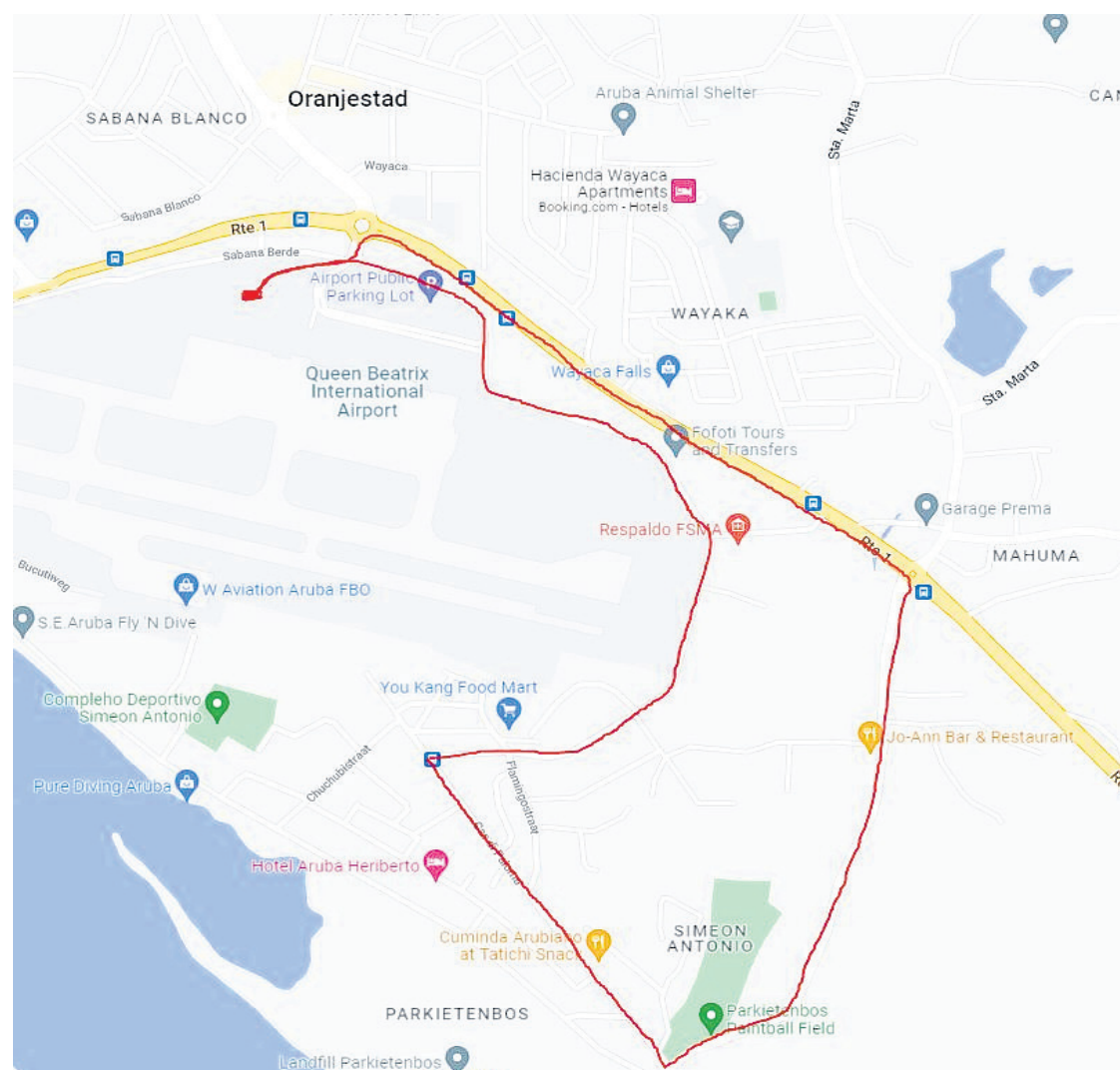
providing children who (temporarily) can no longer live at their home because of for example neglect, sexual abuse or physical abuse. Stichting Casa

Cuna Progreso also provides guidance to the parents/foster parents of these children.

The SDG 6K Fun Walk & Run

will take place on Saturday September 3, 2022, starting at 6AM. The route will be from the Airport uncovered Parking Lot to Mahuma roundabout to Simeon Antonio passing by Bopel to Hyatt Place and back to the Airport uncovered Parking lot. All participants are requested to be present at the starting point, the Airport uncovered Parking lot at 5:30AM. All proceeds will go towards the two foundations. As a bonus, all participants present will automatically be participating in the raffle prizes which consists of 35+ total prizes including airfare tickets, electronic gadgets, apparel and electronic shop certificates, dinner vouchers and much more.

WoH encourages individuals, organizations, and other service groups to participate in the SDG 6K Fun Walk & Run to not only raise awareness on the importance of the SDGs but also on the importance of everyone's involvement in projects that create a better future for the Aruban Community, especially the children. □



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At the University of Aruba, UAchieve



You've probably seen the hashtag, #UAchieve. But did you know it's more than just a fun tag to use on social media? We would go as far as saying that UAchieve encompasses exactly what we stand for at the University of Aruba. How, you ask? Allow us to explain.

While at first glance, #UAchieve seems like a mere play on the University of Aruba's acronym, UA, and the word achieve (meaning to complete a successful degree program), we believe that's just a small part of it.

Anyone who has studied, worked, or spent a significant amount of time at the University of Aruba knows the experience is about so much more than simply attending and graduating. It's a journey full of ups and downs, fun times and not-so-fun times, laughing, crying, hard work and simply being present.

As mentioned before, of course, the letters UA represent the University of Aruba. At the same time the U represents you, the student, the lecturer, the industry partner, the visitor. While we realize the University of Aruba is a community, it is

important to recognize that it is made up of individuals with unique experiences and the most diverse backgrounds. It's made up of people like U.

The word achieve also represents several ideas. Achievements come in various shapes and forms. When we say UAchieve, it can refer to an academic achievement like getting a good grade, a project well-done, or even a graduation. At the same time, it can refer to softer (but not less important) achievements you are likely to experience as part of the UA community. Think of taking steps to support your community, having the courage to undertake a new extra-curricular activity, or simply getting through a tough day.

The phrase also serves as a reminder of your potential on days it seems like you're not as successful at achieving your goals. Today may have been rough, but you'll bounce back, #UAchieve.

By embodying the spirit of this catchphrase, you essentially let the University of Aruba help you highlight, cultivate and amplify your personal and collec-



tive achievements. We wish you all the best in the 2022-2023 academic year! □

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The Farmer's market is held under a large, covered area so you can shop comfortably in the shade.

The restaurant in the premises serves delicious local lunches and fresh fish when available. Ice cold local beer, smoothies, fresh fruit shakes and not to be missed serves the best shaved ice on the island!

And the Ostrich tours is of course offered as well.

For everybody young and old here is something to do, shop, relax and enjoy a great family outing and most of all come and support the local artisans and farmers every first Sunday of the month from 10:00 to 14:00, Matividiri 57, follow our facebookpage or Instagram @arubaostrich-farm and be notified for each upcoming farmers market ☐



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States tapping historic surpluses for tax cuts and rebates

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)

— Stoked by the largest surplus in state history, Missouri's Republican-led Legislature devised a \$500 million plan to send one-time tax refunds to millions of households. In a shock to some, GOP Gov. Mike Parson vetoed it.

Parson's objection: He wanted a bigger, longer-lasting tax cut.

"Now is the time for the largest income tax cut in our state's history," Parson declared as he called lawmakers back for a September special session to consider a \$700 million permanent tax reduction.

Upon its likely approval, Missouri will join at least 32 states that already have enacted some type of tax cut or rebate this year — an astounding outpouring of billions of tax dollars back to the people. Idaho lawmakers are convening Thursday to consider more tax breaks, and Montana lawmakers also are weighing a special session for tax relief.

Flush with federal pandemic aid and their own surging tax revenue, states have cut income tax rates for individuals and businesses, expanded tax deductions for families and retirees, pared back property taxes, waived sales taxes on groceries and suspended motor fuel taxes to offset inflationary price spikes. Many also have provided immediate tax rebates.

Republicans and Democrats alike have joined the tax-cutting trend during a midterm election year.

Yet divisions have emerged about how far to go. While Democrats generally have favored targeted tax breaks and one-time rebates, some Republicans have pressed for permanent income tax rate reductions that could lower tax bills — and state revenue — for years to come. Parson describes it as "real, lasting relief."

Some budget analysts warn that permanent tax cuts could strain states during a future recession. The U.S. economy has shrunk for two straight quarters this



Colorado State Treasurer Dave Young holds up a replica of a check sent to resident joint tax filers as part of the "Colorado Cashback" refund Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, in Denver.

Associated Press

year, meeting one informal sign of a recession.

"Quite simply, relying on the current surplus to fund permanent tax changes isn't fiscally sustainable, or responsible, and will ultimately require cuts to state services," said Amy Blouin, president and CEO of the Missouri Budget Project, a nonprofit that analyzes fiscal policies.

For some states, the current surpluses are unlike anything they've previously seen.

The 2022 fiscal year, which ended June 30 for most states, marked the second straight year of large growth in tax collections after economic shutdowns triggered declines early in the coronavirus pandemic. Many states reported their largest-ever surpluses, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers.

"I don't think there's been a time in history where states are better equipped to ride out a potential recession," said Timothy Vermeer, senior state tax policy analyst at the Tax Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. "A majority, if not all, of the rainy day funds are in a really healthy position."

Income tax rate cuts have passed in 13 states this year, already equaling last year's historic total, according to the Tax Foundation. Republicans control the legislatures in all of those

states except New York, where Democrats who wield power accelerated the timetable for a previously approved tax rate reduction.

Republican-led Arkansas was the most recent to take action during an August special session. A new law will speed up a gradual income tax rate reduction enacted last year and provide a one-time inflationary tax credit. Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson described the \$500 million package as "a transfer of wealth from the government to the taxpayer" that "could not have come at a more important time."

Nationwide, inflation is at a 40-year-high, raising prices on most goods and services and squeezing incomes.

At least 15 states have approved one-time rebates from their surpluses, including 10 led by Democratic governors and legislatures, four by Republicans and one — Virginia — with split partisan control.

Democratic-led California, which posted a record \$97 billion surplus, is sending rebates of between \$200 and \$1,050 to individuals earning less than \$250,000 annually and households earning less than \$500,000. All four GOP-controlled states providing rebates — Georgia, Indiana, Idaho and South Carolina — also made permanent income tax rate cuts.

Though often popular, tax

rebates do little to fight inflation and "may actually be counterproductive" by enabling additional consumer spending on items in scarce supply and thus contributing to higher prices, said Hernan Moscoso Boedo, an economist at the University of Cincinnati. Still, big surpluses coupled with inflation make rebates a tempting option for politicians, especially during an election year.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican facing a re-election challenge from Democrat Stacey Abrams, has been among the most aggressive tax-cutters. He signed legislation gradually reducing the income tax rate from 5.75% to 4.99%. He also signed a measure providing a \$1.1 billion tax rebate, with up to \$250 for individuals and \$500 for couples. He has proposed an additional \$2 billion in income and property tax rebates. And after a law temporarily suspending the state's gas tax expired in May, Kemp extended the gas tax break through mid-September.

"We're trying to help Georgians fight through this tough time," Kemp said.

In Colorado, legislative staff estimate it will cost \$2.7 million to carry out legislation expediting an income tax refund of \$750 for individuals and \$1,500 for couples. The constitutionally mandated refund of surplus revenue was originally due

to be paid next year but is being distributed now — along with a letter from Democratic Gov. Jared Polis touting it as inflation relief.

Polis, who is up for re-election in November, had been a previous critic of the automatic refund provision. His Republican challenger, Heidi Ganahl, is accusing him of "hypocrisy." Idaho Gov. Brad Little, a Republican, has called the Legislature back for a special session starting Thursday to consider more tax breaks.

He's proposing to use part of the state's projected \$2 billion budget surplus for a \$500 million income tax rebate this year. He also wants to cut more than \$150 million annually by creating a flat 5.8% income tax rate starting next year. That comes after the state reduced the top tax rate each of the last two years.

"Folks, this is conservative governing in action," Little said while asserting the tax cuts still would leave enough money to boost education funding by hundreds of millions of dollars.

Montana lawmakers are weighing whether to convene a special session later in September to provide tax breaks from a budget surplus. A proposal calls for giving \$1,000 rebates to homeowners who paid property taxes during the past two years. It also would provide income tax rebates of \$1,250 for individuals and \$2,500 for couples.

Montana's Republican House and Senate majority leaders said in a joint statement that the rebates would offer help "as soon as possible with expenses such as gas, groceries, school supplies and so much more." But some lawmakers, including term-limited GOP Rep. Frank Garner, have expressed reluctance. "My first concern is if this proposal is driven by an imminent emergency or by those wanting to write checks to voters because their emergency is merely an imminent election," Garner wrote in an opinion column. □

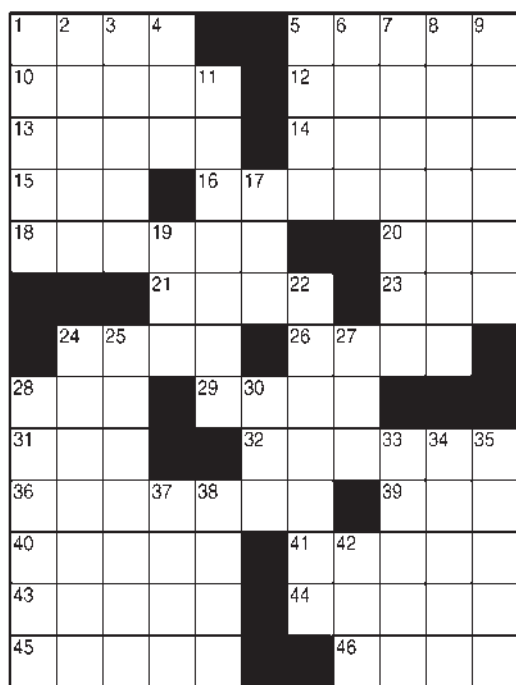
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 44 Conde-
1 Hiker's scending
route look
5 Truman's 45 Takes ten
Missouri 46 Shoulder
hometown muscle,
10 Exem- for short
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- 12 Blow
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13 Bellini
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14 Add up
15 Caterer's
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31 Brief time
32 Get snug
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- DOWN**
- 1 Locker
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2 Dote on
3 Shorebirds
4 Scenery
chewer
5 Overdue
6 Singer
Tori
7 New
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8 Flowery
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odd prime
34 Flatten
35 Ply
37 Set
eyes on
38 A lot
42 Last
part



A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-1 CRYPTOQUOTE

R J Z R D W J Y Z K G Y C L K Z S E L

S R D U C Y K S E Z K I E Z J Z C I L W

I E Z S L J D G S R D U C L H I .

— S R D I Z J S Y K P E Z D D
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT'S KIND OF FUN TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE. — WALT DISNEY

WEAVER ACID
ATTIRE SORE
GATLIN SPAN
LET SUP
PAPA TREAD
AGO THEEDGE
RAP HEW OIL
IMPAIRS UTA
SEEME STAY
DEFECT
ETON READER
LOUD ANGELA
METS STEELY

Yesterday's answer

Calm before storms? Oddly quiet Atlantic despite forecasts



A pair of beach goers watch the sun rise over the Atlantic Ocean, Friday, June 10, 2022, in Surfside, Fla.

Associated Press

By SETH BORENSTEIN AND REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — It's been quiet too quiet this Atlantic hurricane season, meteorologists and residents of storm-prone areas whisper almost as if not to tempt fate.

A record-tying inactive August is drawing to a close and no storms have formed, even though it is peak hurricane season and all experts' pre-season forecasts warned of an above normal season. Nearly all the factors that meteorologists look for in a busy season are there.

Warm ocean water for fuel? Check.

Not a lot of wind shear that decapitates storms? Check.

La Nina, the natural cooling of the central Pacific that changes weather patterns worldwide and increases Atlantic storm activity? Check.

Yet zero storms formed. Surprised experts point to unusual persistent dry air and a few other factors. But each time they and computer simulations think something is brewing, nothing comes of it.

"It has been surprisingly and freakishly quiet in the Atlantic," University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy said, pointing out that weak Tropical Storm Colin fizzled out on July 2 and there's been nothing since.

It'll be the first time since 1941 that the Atlantic has gone from July 3 to the end

of August with no named storm, Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said. Since 1950, only 1997 and 1961 had no named storms in August and 1961 then went hyperactive in September, including deadly Carla, he said.

In Lake Charles, Louisiana, one of the more weather-battered cities in the past decade, residents have noticed how quiet the hurricane season is so far and it's almost "testing fate" to bring it up, Mayor Nic Hunter said. From August 2020 to August 2021, the city was hammered by two hurricanes Laura and Delta only six weeks apart, a deep freeze and spring flooding. Residents still have blue tarps on their roofs.

"I think there's a lot of knocking on wood. There's a lot of prayers," Hunter said. "Until the season is over, I don't think anybody's going to have any sighs of relief."

Certainly not 74-year-old Shirley Verdin, who lives about 200 miles (320 kilometers) away in Bayou Point-Au-Chien, where Hurricane Ida ripped through on Aug. 29 last year. She now lives in a Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer next to her gutted home that will be demolished down to the pilings this weekend so it can be rebuilt.

There are wisps of potential storm systems swirling in the Atlantic that meteorologists are following and so is Verdin. Closely.

"I know there's something out there right now," she said.

The National Hurricane Center is watching three thunderstorm systems in the Atlantic and gives them all at least a 50% chance of becoming a named tropical storm, with one of them a likely sounding 80%. But Colorado State's Klotzbach has seen this before this year and isn't counting on them.

Just late last week, the computer forecast models predicted three maybe four storms forming, including one becoming a major hurricane with winds of more than 110 mph (177 km/h), Klotzbach said.

Then nothing.

For the past month and a half, thunderstorms that could be seeds of hurricanes power off Africa looking strong enough "but then they encounter a lot of dry air that's just sitting over the Atlantic," University of Albany atmospheric scientist Kristen Corbosiero said.

"The dry air has really been the main thing that's been stopping storms from really getting going."

Relative humidity is about 15% below normal and there's been Saharan dust in there making it drier, McNoldy and Klotzbach said.

The dry air does a couple things, Corbosiero said. Those thunderstorms become more potent and get their energy as warm moist air rises off the ocean. The ocean is warm enough, but the dry air causes that water to evaporate, cool and go down, not up, she said.

That dry air also helps create cross winds about 2 miles up (3 to 4 kilometers) "that can really do damage to a storm trying to form," Corbosiero said.

Matthew Rosencrans, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's lead hurricane outlook forecaster, said he sees signs that the dry air is ending and normal moisture will be returning, which could mean more storms. □

Take 2: NASA aims for Saturday launch of new moon rocket

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aero-space Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA will try again

Saturday to launch its new moon rocket on a test flight, after engine trouble halted the first countdown this week.

Managers said Tuesday they are changing fueling procedures to deal with the issue. A bad sensor also could be to blame for Monday's scrapped launch, they noted.

The 322-foot (98-meter) rocket the most powerful ever built by NASA remains on its pad at Kennedy Space Center with an empty crew capsule on top.

The Space Launch System rocket will attempt to send the capsule around the moon and back. No one will be aboard, just three test dummies. If successful, it will be the first capsule to fly to the moon since NASA's Apollo program 50 years ago.

Proceeding toward a Saturday launch will provide additional insight, even if the problem reappears and the countdown is halted again, said NASA's rocket program manager, John Honeycutt. That's better "than us sitting around scratching our heads, was it good enough or not."

"Based on what I've heard from the technical team today, what we need to do is continue to pore over the data and polish up our plan on putting the flight rationale together," he said.

During Monday's launch attempt, readings showed that one of the four main engines in the rocket's core stage could not be chilled sufficiently prior to the planned ignition at liftoff. □

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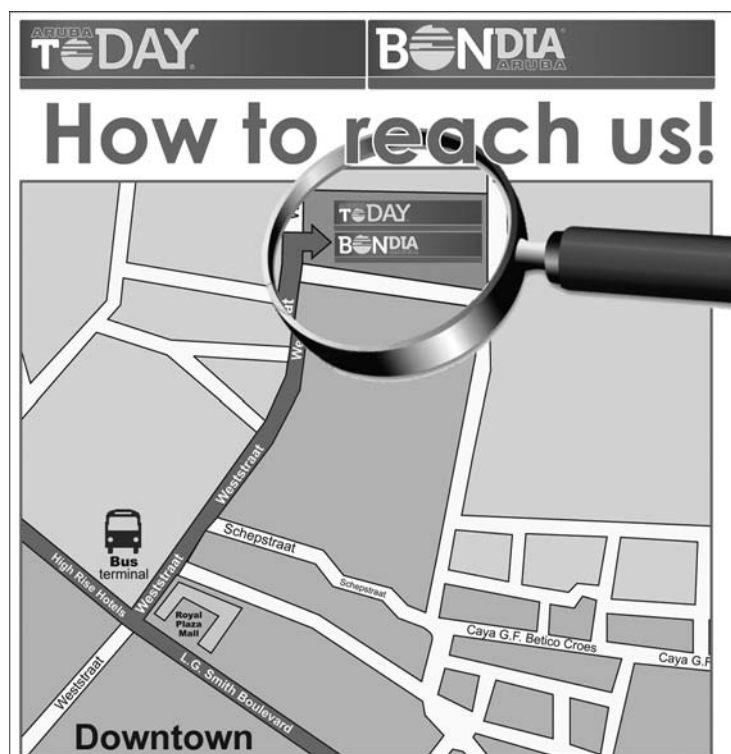
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STOP
Violence Against Women

Fall Preview: 'The Woman King' comes for the throne

By **JAKE COYLE**

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gina Prince-Bythewood didn't get very far into reading the script for "The Woman King," a historical epic about a real West African army of female warriors, before she knew she wanted to direct it.

"Literally five pages into it I knew it was going to be my next film," Prince-Bythewood says. "I felt so connected to these women. I was so excited. When they rise up out of the grass I was like, 'Ohhhh, I want to shoot that.'"

When "The Woman King" — which does begin with the imposing image of Viola Davis and a regiment of female soldiers stealthily emerging from tall savannah grass in the moonlight, with swords drawn — rises up in theaters on Sept. 16, it will emerge as a potent force on a movie landscape that has seldom seen something like it.

Drawing from the real history of the Agojie, women warriors who defended the West African kingdom of Dahomey (present-day Benin) from the 1600s until the late 19th century, "The Woman King" is muscular action-drama that puts female power front and center at a time when women's



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Viola Davis in "The Woman King."

Associated Press

rights are imperiled.

"It's a time right now in our country, and it permeates worldwide, where women are feeling completely attacked. In some ways, it feels like we're powerless in the situation," Prince-Bythewood said in a recent interview. "We can look up on the screen and see the warrior in these woman and believe we all have this innate warrior in ourselves and believe that we can stand up and fight."

"I want women to be able to tap into their fight because that's what we're going to need in this moment," added Prince-Bythewood. "The Woman King," which

will premiere at the Toronto Film Festival in early September before Sony Pictures opens it in theaters, is a clear standout in the upcoming fall movie season. Davis stars as an African warrior named Nanisca, with Thuso Mbedu, Lashana Lynch ("No Time to Die"), Sheila Atim co-starring as fellow soldiers. The film unfolds against the backdrop of the slave trade, a scourge that the Dahomey king (John Boyega) mulls a response to. The action, though, is driven by the strength and cunning of the Agojie, and by Davis' titanic presence.

For Prince-Bythewood, "The

Woman King" is a kind of mission statement and capstone to her 30-year career. A high-school basketball player and a track runner at the University of California, Prince-Bythewood brought that athletic mindset to filmmaking, breaking through with 2000's "Love & Basketball," with Sanaa Lathan and Omar Epps.

"Love & Basketball" has only gotten better with time ("Double or nothing?" remains one of the movies' most romantic lines). And in 2020, "The Old Guard" brought Prince-Bythewood to a wider audience than ever before. The Netflix superhero film, with Charlize

Theron, became one of the streamer's most-watched films. (A sequel, which Prince-Bythewood is producing, is in production.)

"The Old Guard" was the first film I did for streaming," she says. "I didn't know how it was going to feel given how much I love theatrical. There's something amazing about going global in an instant. But the release Sony has planned for this is global, too."

And to her, "The Woman King" stands as a metaphor for the film industry, where such stories and protagonists have rarely made it to the big screen. Most of the department heads on the film were women. Dana Stevens wrote the screenplay. Cathy Shulman and Maria Bello are producers. Polly Morgan shot it. Terilyn A. Shropshire edited it.

"There are great people out there who are not getting opportunities, so I look past the resume," says Prince-Bythewood. "At a certain point, someone did that for me. Certainly Mike De Luca for 'Love & Basketball.' So it's exciting to have that type of energy where people get up from a production meeting to look around and see mostly women. I think they all were warriors in what we had to pull to get this movie made." □

Catherine Deneuve eyes lifetime achievement award in Venice



Catherine Deneuve poses for photographers at the photo call for the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement during the 79th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022.

Associated Press

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

AP Film Writer

Catherine Deneuve is not

that fond of reminiscing, even as she prepares to collect a Lifetime Achieve-

ment Award at the Venice International Film Festival.

"We don't have time to look backwards," Deneuve told reporters Wednesday, hours before her award. "This is our present and we have to continue to go forward."

At 78, the legendary French actor is as busy as ever. She's just wrapped up one film in Paris and is starting another soon in Belgium. The industry environment, she thinks, is better for older women, and actors, in Europe than in America.

Deneuve has a long history with the Venice Film Festival, going back to 1967 when she won the Golden Lion for her portrayal of a well-heeled housewife who

starts working at a brothel in Luis Buñuel's classic "Belle de Jour." In 1998, she won the festival's Volpi Cup for "Place Vendôme." She'll collect this latest honor, another Golden Lion, at the festival's opening night.

Though she is often described as an icon of cinema, Deneuve rejects the term for herself. She also said she doesn't think she was ever a "sex symbol" either.

But she still treasures the films she made with directors Jacques Demy ("The Umbrellas of Cherbourg," "The Young Girls of Rochefort" and "Donkey Skin") and François Truffaut ("The Last Metro"). Demy in particular, she said, was very

important in her early career when she hadn't yet had much experience in film.

"Today, the important things are the same: The story I want to tell ... the screenplay ... the environment we create ... the people I will spend time with," Deneuve said.

She also continues to seek out new movies — and wants to see them in a crowd at a theater.

"I love cinema. I love going to the cinema," she said. "I want to be in a cinema with people I don't know. It's not just the sound. It's the atmosphere. At home, it's very different. You don't feel things the same at all." □

Curry's 3: Joins Davidson HOF, has jersey retired, graduates

DAVIDSON, N.C. (AP)—Stephen Curry knocked down another huge 3 — one that was 13 years in the making. The Golden State Warriors point guard was inducted into the Davidson College Hall of Fame, had his No. 30 jersey retired and received his bachelor's degree in sociology following an elaborate solo graduation ceremony on Wednesday on the school's campus.

"This is an absolutely amazing day and an amazing moment for myself and my family," Curry said during the 90-minute ceremony. "The best decision I ever made was to come to Davidson College and pursue an education, join an amazing community and, most importantly, play for an amazing man who has built this program for what it is in (former Davidson coach) coach (Bob) McKillop."

There were signs scattered throughout Davidson's campus, congratulating and welcoming Curry back to the school, which is located about 25 miles north of Charlotte where Curry grew up.

Curry walked into a packed house at Belk Arena —



Golden State Warriors Stephen Curry poses with his diploma after his graduation ceremony at Davidson College on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022, in Davidson, N.C.

Associated Press

where he played from 2006 to 2009 — wearing a graduation cap and gown, exchanging fist bumps with family, friends, former teammates and current students.

The four-time NBA champion and two-time league MVP turned pro after his junior season at Davidson, and only recently finished his final classes remotely to earn his degree.

The school was purposely waiting for Curry to graduate before retiring his number.

Once he did, he became the first Davidson athlete in any sport to have his jersey number retired, meaning No. 30 will never be worn by another Wildcats basketball player.

"To earn this degree you showed determination and perseverance," Davidson

president Doug Hicks said during the ceremony. "It would have been so easy, so straightforward to not complete your college degree. Yet in response to that idea, you did what you did to 29 other NBA organizations — you said, 'night, night!'"

Curry held back tears as he accepted his degree and, at the urging of the crowd, threw his cap into the air.

His mother, Sonya Curry, spoke at the ceremony, calling it a "dream come true" to see her son graduate.

"Today you can breathe and say, 'Check, it's done,'" Sonya Curry said. "Today you helped coach McKillop maintain his 100% graduation rate. And you set an example for others, young and old, that it's never too late to complete your education."

Sonya Curry said she initially wanted her son to go to a larger Division I school farther from home but changed her mind after watching the Wildcats practice.

"I told him if this is what you want to do, I will support you," she said.

McKillop talked about how Curry's unselfishness, saying he mailed postcards to Davidson fans, alumni and supporters thanking them after he was drafted seventh overall by the Warriors in 2009. "How many young people have the capacity to do that?" McKillop said. Curry closed his speech by saying, "I'm a graduate, I'm a Davidson alum and I am in the Hall of Fame — and that's pretty crazy." □

WSox manager La Russa out indefinitely with health issue

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago White Sox manager Tony La Russa is out indefinitely because of an unspecified health issue.

The 77-year-old La Russa missed Tuesday night's 9-7 loss to Kansas City on the recommendation of his doctors. The team said he is scheduled to undergo additional testing in Arizona with his personal physicians "over the coming days."

Bench coach Miguel Cairo will continue to serve as acting manager while La Russa is out.

"It's unbelievably tough," outfielder Andrew Vaughn said. "We really don't have much information on what's going on."

La Russa's absence on Tuesday was announced about one hour before the first pitch. The Hall of Famer showed no signs of health

issues during his pregame session with reporters and while talking to general manager Rick Hahn and former Oakland Athletics pitching great Dave Stewart before the game.

La Russa is in the second season of his second managerial stint with Chicago. The team began the year with championship aspirations, but it has been one of baseball's biggest disappointments.

Heading into the second game of their series against the Royals, the White Sox had dropped five in a row to fall to 63-66. Chants of "Fire Tony! Fire Tony!" have been heard at Guaranteed Rate Field.

La Russa, who is close friends with White Sox chairman Jerry Reinsdorf, was a surprise hire in October 2020, and he directed to

the team to the AL Central title last year.

He started his managing career with the White Sox during the 1979 season. He won the World Series with Oakland in 1989 and St. Louis in 2006 and 2011.

La Russa and Sparky Anderson are the only managers to win the World Series in the American and National leagues.

La Russa was enshrined in Cooperstown in 2014. He got his first major league managing job at age 34 when the White Sox promoted him from Triple-A to replace the fired Don Kessinger.

He took over that August and led them to a 522-510 record over parts of eight seasons.

Chicago also made four moves before Wednesday night's matchup with



Chicago White Sox manager Tony La Russa walks on the field during the second inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Kansas City. Right-hander Lance Lynn was reinstated from the bereavement list, and catcher Yasmani Grandal was activated from the 10-day injured list. Left-hander Tanner Banks and catcher Carlos Pérez

were optioned to Triple-A Charlotte.

Grandal, 33, had been sidelined by a left knee strain. The switch hitter is batting .203 with three homers and 21 RBIs in 74 games this season. □

NIL deals put just a few bucks in most athletes' pockets

By **DAVE SKRETTA**
AP Sports Writer

Texas offensive lineman Christian Jones remembers walking up to Bijan Robinson not long ago and asking for a lift, figuring it was least the All-American running back could do for one of the big guys doing all the blocking.

"He said there's a height limit," Jones said with a smile. Turns out there's not much space in a Lamborghini for a 6-foot-6, 328-pound teammate.

"The suspension would probably be messed up," Jones added.

Thanks to a bold new era of name, image and likeness compensation deals across college sports, plenty of star players are cruising around campus in a fancy



Texas' Christian Jones (70) blocks against Louisiana-Lafayette during the second half of an NCAA college football game on Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

ride. But for every NIL millionaire like Robinson, there are thousands of athletes

like Jones who have hardly struck it rich.

"For sure, you have the

haves and the have-nots," said Jake Brandon, who

founded a NIL collective at

BYU to help put some extra money in the pockets of Cougar athletes. "We've given out thousands and thousands of dollars to the athletes, but we haven't given out millions and millions of dollars to the athletes."

According to the NIL platform INFLCR, the average transaction involving a college football player is \$3,396, while a similar platform called Athliance puts it at \$3,391. But those numbers are skewed by exceptionally large deals signed by elites such as Robinson and Ohio State's C.J. Stroud; the median deal through INFLCR's platform is just \$53.

That's hardly enough for a tank of gas in Robinson's flashy orange Lamborghini. "The most common request I get from athletes is, 'Can you help me get a NIL deal to get groceries this month?' Or, 'I got a flat tire in my sidewall and I don't have the money to cover it. Can you help me get a NIL deal?'" Brandon recalls telling a local Utah business. "So the majority of people in college football, if you look at the broad spectrum, are not walking away with six-figure NIL deals. They're more likely to be walking away with a couple extra thousand dollars."

They're more like the deals found on the Opendorse platform, where Tennessee fans can get a recorded shoutout from linebacker Tyler Baron for as little as \$10 or an autograph for \$25. Kansas State quarterback Adrian Martinez will author a targeted social media post starting at \$125 while Memphis defensive back Quindell Johnson is open to custom requests.

The Opendorse offers are take 'em-or-leave 'em opportunities, allowing athletes to decide what makes sense for them.

"For me, it's been nothing more than fun," said Martinez, the prolific former Nebraska quarterback who will start for the Wildcats this season.

"I've never wanted it to stress me out." □

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